

will net them more than \$11.2 million after taxes.

The couple chose a lump sum cash payment entitling them to \$15,559,592 of the \$33 million jack-

million will net them an after-tax payment of \$11,202,906, probably within four to six weeks, she said.

She disclosed the winners' names in accordance with Lottery policy,

very's Sacramento district office Monday afternoon with the winning ticket, adamantly did not want publicity, Johnston said.

Their winning numbers in the

Simonson said he doesn't know whether he has seen them.

"They could stare me straight in the face, and I couldn't tell you if that was them."

Critics see short canal as run-up to Peripheral

■ Government officials are exploring the idea to clean Delta water, but say they have no shadow agenda for sending more water south

By Denis Cuff
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Environmentalists accused state and federal agencies Tuesday of quietly laying the groundwork for the controversial Peripheral Canal.

Government planners acknowledged they are considering building the first four or five miles of a canal to freshen water quality in the Delta, a source for 23 million Californians. But officials deny they have hidden the plan or decided to go ahead with the full Peripheral Canal project.

New versions of the 43-mile canal proposal continue to scare many Northern Californians who worry it could be used to ship too much fresh water to a thirsty Southern California at the expense of fish and wildlife in the Delta and San Francisco Bay environment.

State voters rejected a canal plan in 1982.

Gioia meeting to be on traffic

TIMES STAFF

ROLLINGWOOD — Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia will host a meeting this evening to discuss safety and traffic in this un-

Several environmental groups said they found a proposal for the northern leg of the canal when they pored over details of a \$5 billion government plan to fix Delta water and fishery problems.

"They are planning to build the first stage of the Peripheral Canal," said Tom Graff, attorney for the Environmental Defense Fund. "I believe they intentionally deceived the press and public into believing there was nothing in this plan."

In its June 25 plan, CalFed, a team of state and federal agencies, proposed a canal to move Sacramento River water from Hood, south of Sacramento, into the Mokelumne River in 2005.

Before digging the canal, CalFed would have to determine that other measures in its plan failed to improve

Delta tap water enough to hit targeted limits for the contaminants bromate, a carcinogen, and total organic carbon.

CalFed also must conclude the canal doesn't harm fish by disrupting salmon migrations, CalFed managers said.

"It's a contingency action to deal with water quality. It has quite a hurdle to overcome," said Lester Snow, CalFed executive director. "You would have to meet a threshold test of not adversely affecting fish. That is very difficult."

CalFed listed the canal segment as an option because of the potential to flush more fresh water into the central Delta to flush out salts and impurities in that tap water source.

Even if the smaller canal is built,

his agency is committed to make no decision about the full canal for at least seven years, Snow said.

Leaders of Save San Francisco Bay Association and the Clean Water Action aren't satisfied. They said CalFed has set such high goals for improving Delta water that the agencies will have no choice but to build a small canal leading to the big one.

Environmentalists said CalFed should instead focus on trying to improve water quality through innovative water treatment technologies such as ultraviolet light and superfine filters.

Denis Cuff covers industrial safety and water issues. Reach him at 925-228-6172 or dcuff@cctimes.com.

IN BRIEF

Orinda

Offer not enough for Lesher estate

The Orinda estate of the late Dean and Margaret Lesher remains for sale, a broker seeking to sell the property said Tuesday.

"It's available, it's for sale, it is not in escrow ... We had an offer and the terms were not acceptable," said Coldwell Banker's Jerilynn Babington, exclusive broker for the luxurious 4.3-acre property. It carries a \$4.5 million asking price.

Babington declined to elaborate

on why the offer was rejected.

The estate includes a seven-bedroom, eight-bathroom mansion, indoor and outdoor pools, landscaped grounds, a Japanese tea house, five-stall horse barn, indoor carnival-style shooting gallery and 14-seat Art Deco movie theater.

Dean Lesher, founder and longtime publisher of the Times, died in 1993. His wife, Margaret, drowned in May 1997 while on an Arizona camping trip with her husband of six months, Collin "T.C." Thorstenson.

Mellon Trust of California oversees the estate and hired Babington in June as the property's ex-

clusive broker.

Moraga

Leach to host meeting to hear from voters

Assemblywoman Lynne Leach, R-Walnut Creek, will host a town hall meeting Thursday to discuss Sacramento legislative matters and hear from constituents.

The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. in the auditorium of Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, 1010 Camino Pablo.

— Times staff